An Essay
on the
Effects of Opium as a Drug upon the Human
System.

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Effects of Opium as a drug upon the Human System.

No human being can be in health unless the Stomach and Bowels are in a normal condition. This normal condition will be indicated by the processes of digestion being performed in a Harmonious Manner.

There must not be any apparent efforts in any of the digestive functions. If a man cannot eat with ease there must be to a greater, or less degree, derangement through out his entire physical constitution. There is much truth in the remark that a man in health is not aware that any of the processes of digestion are being performed.

There are but few in the present artificial condition of Society who are blessed with digestive organs which act so harmoniously in the performance of their complicated functions, that inconvenience or pain is not occasioned to their possessor.

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No human being can be in health unless the Stomach and Bowels are in a Normal condition. This Normal condition will be indicated by the processes of digestion being performed in a harmonious Manner.

There must not be any apparent efforts in any of the digestive functions. If a man cannot eat well there must be to a greater, or less degree, derangement throughout his entire physical constitution. There is much truth in the remark that a man in health is not aware that any of the processes of digestion are being performed.

There are but few in the present artificial condition of Society who are blessed with digestive organs which act so harmoniously in the performance of their complicated functions, that, inconvenience, or pain is not occasioned to their possessor.

In order to ensure this healthy state of the System, it is very important that great care should be taken, not only in the kind of food with which we are supplied, but also, regard should be exercised in relation to the manner which it is received and the quantity taken. It may be in a moral point of view that it is of little importance, what entereth in at the mouth, but in a physical point of view, many things may be received into the stomach which defile the man.

It is believed that one of the principal causes of the appearance of so many derangements of the digestive organs, which are brought to the observation of the practitioner of Medicine, is the excessive use of poisonous drugs. Especially, in days that are passed when the errors of the Profession & Practitioner of Medicine were to be winked at because of ignorance. Still in modern times although a more brilliant and safe light has cast its rays upon those who wish to walk in the path of reason and

wisdom, a great proportion of the human family have been, and still are, dosed with the active drug, Opium. Dosed from infancy — dosed through life — impairing to a greater or less degree, all the functions of the animal economy, as well as the faculties of the spiritual being.

Unless Mercury may be excepted, there is no drug, which has worked so much evil in the community as Opium. And it may be questioned, whether the latter is not at the present day the greater evil of the two.

The effects of Mercury are now so well known and read by all men and in a vast Number of cases in every community experienced, to their sorrow and confusion, that it is rare to find a person so lost to all regard to health, beauty, and comfort, who will receive this poison, although, prescribed by those having high repute for Medical Skill. And no Wonder. For Opium works its effects so insidiously upon the Constitution, — pleasing all the senses — gradually and imperceptibly

at first, yet effectually enslaveing them, that the patient is not allarmed at the evils which it is creating upon the system until he is completly in its power, rendering it the most dangerous article of the two.

One makes a bold attack upon the citadel of health, so terrifying the subject that another attack is more to be dreaded than the disease itself. The other comes with its lethean power benumbing the senses and rendering the subject an easy prey to the worst of influences.

To the carful observer of the effects of this drug upon the human system, there is no time of its administration, when not only its inefficiency to promote any good, but its absolute power to do much evil, is more apparent than during the prevalence of the symptoms denominated Cholera. And it is well known that there are but few Mixtures ordered by the irregular practice (so) Allopathy and its satelites, in which Opium does not form a principal part. And

its evils are particularly seen in Dysentary where it makes that condition of the parts which are by the disease constipated doubly costive.

It has been supposed that in high states of inflammatory action, this drug was a proper remedy to be administered. As well might you suppose you had tamed the fury of the lion by beating him upon the head until he was insensible. As well might you ~~suppose~~ infer that you had checked the tendency to effusion of blood to the brain, by depletions from the arm.

The spirit may be benumed for a time, but diseased energy will return again — Return unless your castigation or your sapping have so far prostrated the system that the subject sinks an easy prey to some other form of disease.

Opium has a direct tendency to diminish all the secretions of the Alimentary canal. And it is for this reason, that so many diseases of the digestive organs are known to prevail, with those who are its habitual

consumers. Dyspepsia with its full train of ~~mmoaning~~ moaning Consequences follows as its direct offspring. The ordinary vigorous actions of the mind, cease to impart that energy to the physical system, which are indispensible to the harmonious action of a healthy Man. The patient complains that he is not well, yet, cannot tell what ails him - Labor does not return to him its wonted reward.. - viz. the appetite which craves only for the really Nourishing - Sleep that knows not of dreams and laughing enjoyment of all the pleasures which do from his original constitution, feels, were his inalienable rights. Society and friends have become a burden. Why this change? The digestive functions have been impaired & that aliment which once nourished and invigorated the system now clogs, irritates it.

This may not be the work of a day as it is often begun in childhood and being continued for years; that, Constitution which at forty should be in its full

vigor, denotes more the feebleness of double its amount of years. The Nurse give it to her infant-charge for the purpose of allaying some trifling pain. which, not only produces an unnatural sleep but lays the foundation for innumerable ailments and the same remedy is resorted to for each succeeding pain.

The sad effects of Opium are often witnessed in those, who are naturally constituted of a nervous or Melancholly temperament. Such persons not unfrequently resort to this drug for the purpose of ending their existance.

There are a class of people, who are naturally fond of artificial Stimulants. Who, not unfrequently resort to this as a means of elevating their Spirits, which causes them to live for the time being in a world of ~~their~~ its own creating. Severe trouble comes across their pathway which overshadows all their hopes & ~~their~~ its Opium light influence is resorted to for the purpose

of dispelling the clouds which hangs over their future prospects.

Examine the pathological effects of this drug, ever so extensively, and no other conclusion can be derived, than that, its use in the crude state is always productive of evil and therefore ought never to be resorted to as a remedial agent.

It weakens the digestive powers — unnerves the nervous system — frenzys the brain — stupifies the mental faculties — blunts the senses — vitiates the moral emotions & social affections and thus degrades the whole Man.